



**Energy & Technology Committee
Public Hearing
March 17 2009**

Submitted by: Charles J. Rothenberger, Staff Attorney

In Opposition to:

Governor's Bill No. 6377,, An Act Concerning Green Building Regulations

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 6,500 members statewide. For more than twenty-five years, CFE has used law, science and education protect and preserve Connecticut's natural resources.

CFE *opposes* Bill No. 6377, An Act Concerning Green Building Regulations due to concerns with the proposed changes to the dates for implementing the regulations, particularly the date in section (b). That section proposes to delay the date by which the green building regulations must be adopted until January 1, 2010. The bill also proposes to delete the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM") in reference to the adoption of regulations. These changes are troubling because OPM, which has been the lead agency on energy issues in the state, has already gone through an exhaustive process in drafting green building standards and regulations for the state. It would be unwise to remove them from the process at this stage. Further, these regulations have already been delayed by at least a year as the Governor's office has reviewed and revised them. Any further delay would seriously compromise the ability to apply these standards to projects currently in the pipeline. Once this opportunity is lost, it is lost forever. We need to begin implementing increased energy efficiency and other green building standards as soon as possible in order to reap the full economic, environmental and social benefits that such buildings provide.

CFE supports that section of the bill that tempts to clarify which buildings shall be subject to the enhanced green building standards. Changing the determining factors from the cost of construction to the square footage of the building makes sense and should make it much easier to apply the underlying regulations.

Accordingly, while supporting the definitional changes contained in this bill, CFE urges the Committee to reject any delay in adopting the green building regulations drafted by OPM.